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National Republican.

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and Found," and "Personal," twelve and a half cents per month.

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AT THE CABINET MEETING yesterday the case of the Virginians was discussed. Although no official information has been received, and the Government is not in possession of any news regarding the case except that which has appeared in the journals of the day, the discussion entreated many points of international law bearing upon the subject. The treaty stipulations with Spain were also discussed, particularly the provision which yields to that Power the "right of search" of American vessels whenever the United States shall accord belligerent rights to insurgents against the Spanish Government. The discussion developed the fact that Spanish legislation and diplomacy had for years been centered upon the single purpose of providing for contingencies similar to those which now embarrass the situation. A law providing for the summary punishment by execution of filibusters or invaders of Cuban soil is among the statutes of Spain, evidently enacted for this purpose. In the absence of any reliable information it was impossible to determine what definite action could be reached; but the action of Spanish Fish in demanding or requesting delay in the execution of the surviving members of the Virginians' crew was apparent as the only step which could have been taken at this time. The opinion prevailed unanimously in the Cabinet that the action of the authorities on the island of Cuba will not and does not accord with the desire of President Castellar's administration.

THE SECRET OF HOTELS. Hotel life and hotel charges are attracting good deal of attention just now from the newspaper press in different cities of the Union, more especially in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. One of the leading newspapers of the first-mentioned place denounces the whole system as wrong, extravagant, and calculated to demoralize the tone of public and private morals. It very pertinently observes that strangers who come to that city, and who "put up" at what are called first-class hotels, are not overcharged for their board and board, their meals—*at the rate of, say, ten dollars a thousand dollars a year.* The direct result of this is, that after a few weeks, in the blase and glister of one of these establishments, the home in the country town becomes insipid, dull and stupid; a taste for extravagance and display is created; hence speculation, improvidence and finally bankruptcy. The *Citizen* of Chicago on a sensible article on the subject says: "We pay \$4.50 a day, and do not stop to think that it is a thousand dollars a month to pay out for mere living. If we can afford *fineries*, and take better accommodations than are given to single travelers, the rate per person is still higher. We do not complain nor think it unusual, but we do demand luxuries in keeping with the price that we would never have thought of asking for ten years ago. Ten years ago the first-class hotels kept an average of one servant to seven guests; now they are obliged to keep one servant for every three guests. A first-class hotel of the size of the Grand Pacific in this city, occupies constantly 150 servants, whose monthly pay-roll amounts to over \$20,000. The style of ornamentation now in vogue requires twice as many servants to keep it clean as the old style required." A Philadelphia paper has come to the conclusion that the whole American hotel system is one of too much magnificence and uncomfortable show, leading to high prices and little real accommodation. There might be given a great deal more confirmation to this statement if only hotel proprietors would understand it is not sham silver dishes and cut glass, but clean, well-cooked viands, that guests care most to have.

The whole discussion is an exceedingly healthy sign of the times—one of the many evidences that have appeared from day to day during the last two months that the era of hollow display of brass and tinsel is about an end, and that we are on the eve of a new era of solid, substantial conduct of affairs which waited before it came. The moral drawn by one of the journals referred to—it is a wonder that we have had no panic, and that hard times have come at last!—is not likely to be soon lost or forgotten.

THE FREE TRADE PAPERS. Papers are endeavoring just now to show that the financial evils under which we are suffering are due to a protective tariff. The *Commercial* is one of these unpersuasive papers, for instance, says: "Would this firm (Sprague's) be in trouble now if an enlightened policy had been followed in this country? If the decision of protection had not blinded them, and if like the Schwantes and other great print manufacturers in England, they had a foreign market as well as a home market?" It is the enlightened part of our contemporary that he would not be in difficulty, but it would not end so far as existence at all. The thousands of operatives employed to them would be working for the English Schwantes, or pitched helpless and hopeless on the plains, burning their ears to the hearts of our sympathizing people, was practically no more of a scourge than the unfortunate situation which now threatens the poor laboring classes. Our subscriptions are not made for the benefit of the dead, but for the relief of the poor wrecks who have lost their limbs, and the families of the dead, and thereby benefited our own mechanics and traders. The enlightened policy is a delusion and a snare. It is a first-rate thing for the Schwantes and their workingmen, but downright deadly for the operatives of the spragues. Before now England has had financial panics; her mills have stopped, and her mechanics paupers. Why did not the enlightened policy save them?

There is a general demand among our exchanges, irrespective of party, to relieve the distresses which the laboring classes are likely to feel this winter. Municipal work should be carried on as extensively as possible. I am sure the course of economy along these lines would be at once wise and prudent, better keep men at work than support them, together with their families, the pauper expedient. The Government, however, is a good deal in this way, provided it really takes the necessary authority from time to time. Let the master be considered as soon as possible, before the "hard times" really come, and the calamity is upon us.

An EXCHANGE says: "The Democratic party is in arrears for the rescue of constitutional government." When constitutional government was in danger some years ago, the same Democratic party, in its efforts to sustain it, did not consider it a "failure," and to show how earnest they were, ran McClellan for the Presidency upon that distinct issue.

THE CASE OF THE VIRGINIANS.

The Administration is bent on all sides with suggestions regarding the case of the Virginians. From the very nature of things, pending the protest or request for an explanation made to the Spanish Government by our own, the State Department officials are compelled to remain quiet, or rather to keep secret that the public is interested in the case. In the present the public is interested in the legitimate Government of Spain, with respect to the subjects with which preceding administrations at Madrid have given no instance. This may be true, and we hope it is. It is certain that Castellar, himself one of the trust and most liberal republicans in Spain, or in any Europe, has a record from which we may make the natural inference. He will sustain that the Spanish Government, which we regard as the legitimate Government of Spain, will treat the subject with an honesty and fairness of purpose, of which preceding administrations at Madrid have given no instance.

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The *Citizen* of New York and fame as a republican of the purest and most earnest kind; but his reputation was subjected to sale under the confederation laws. As Judge Underwood is an elderly man, and his assailant is in the full enjoyment of material wealth and strength, the act was characteristic, not only of the modern chivalry of England, but of the spirit in which the English in which the test is to be made is one through which but few men could pass with honor. The dross that may be in him will certainly come to the surface, and the fair name in which he now rejoices may be dimmed by the exposure of unexpected incapacity for his new position; but should he prove himself to be as capable as an experienced officer as he has shown himself to be, he will gain the confidence of the public and will be entitled to a trial before a properly constituted court for the trial of such charges. If the Richmond authorities do their duty in the premises we shall expect to hear of the punishment of his assailant without delay.

THE CUBAN PATRIOTS in New York and Key West are naturally indignant at the late atrocities in that Island, and announce that they will fight it out to the bitter end. The way these patriots fight is the easy and adoration of the entire world.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

INVITE PARTICULAR ATTENTION to the following advertisements:

STEEL COLORED FIXTURES, &c., &c.

ALEX. R. SHEPHERD & CO.

C O A L : C O A L :

Just received a large supply of the

BEST PATTERNS.

Public attention is invited to

STEEL COLORED FIXTURES, &c., &c.

ALEX. R. SHEPHERD & CO.

R E D U C T I O N .

On and after Monday, Nov. 13, inst.

the price of

H A V E N N E R ' S B R E A D

will be

SIX CENTS A LOAF.

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